

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-15 are all the claims currently pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,970,475 to Barnes et al. (hereafter “Barnes”). Claims 3, 8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view of the Business Wire Article, “Buyerzone.com Provides Purchasing Capabilities for inc.com.” (hereafter “Business Wire”). The Applicants traverse the above rejections for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that Barnes and Business Wire disclose, teaches or suggests each and every element as recited in the claims. To expedite prosecution, the Applicants have herein amended the claims to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art of record.

More specifically, independent claims 1, 6 and 11, have been amended to clarify that a product whose price is stored in the price database is purchased from a supplier at one of the plurality of bases to which the supplier belongs, and the plurality of bases have suppliers from which the products are purchased.

That is, the price data base of the present invention does not merely stores price and supplier information. In addition, the prices are displayed together with information regarding the plurality of bases and supplier at the plurality of bases. These meritorious features

of claims 1, 6 and 11 are not disclosed in Barnes. Additionally, Business Wire also does not appear to overcome the differences note above in Barnes to render obvious the claims of the present invention. Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teaching of Barnes and Business Wire, the combination still would not teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1, 6 and 11, as amended.

Accordingly, claims 1, 6 and 11 are believed to be distinguishable over Barnes and Business Wire, individually or in combination. Likewise, dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are also believed to be distinguishable over Barnes and Business Wire based on their respective dependencies from claims 1, 6 and 11.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4684.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4684.

Respectfully submitted,
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